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Letter from Daniel Chester French, Concord, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, 1881 September 29

Daniel Chester French

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Concord, Mass.
Sept. 29, 1881

My dear Miss Whitney

I learned, on returning from a journey two weeks ago, that unconsciously I had entered the lists against you. I must confess that I felt like withdrawing, fearing the effect, that competitions often have, of breaking in upon the pleasant relations of the competitors. It was, however, too late to retire so I dismissed the question, earnestly hoping that nothing worse occur to divide us.

I was afterwards reminded, of what I had for the moment forgotten, that you had made a bust of Garrison, which Mr. L. J. Garrison said was simply perfect as a likeness; then I exclaimed, "Why don't they give

Miss Whitney the commission?
I sincerely wish they would, but
it is also too late to hope for that.

This morning comes a letter from
Mr. Garrison saying that you, with
a generosity, there would be surprising
if it were not so characteristic, wished
me to have a cast of your bust of
Garrison to help me, if I cared for it.
I do not know how to thank you &
I know not what to say. I think
there is no other sculptor in the
world, who would have made such an
offer.

That it would help me is
so apparent that it is useless to
say so; it would be the first thing I
should secure were I free to choose as
I please. It seems to me, however,
that this advantage that you have
is one to which you are fairly enti-
tled & that you should reap the
benefits of it, & I hesitate about
accepting your generous offer. To

have more evidence my name that I could use your
work in any way, except as I could send an impression
from among it as a souvenir. I have, however, intention to
ask you for one or two of the negro.

I shall come to see you, if I may, when I can
go to Boston & undoubtedly I shall endeavor to answer
whether it would be for you and to avoid any sort of your
inconvenience. At least I thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours
Wm. C. French.

Dr. French

Esq.

Miss Wm.
Mount Vernon Pa.

Boston

Mass.

